Shipmates,

Last month we released the Navy Reserve 2013 Strategic Plan, which includes three focus areas aligned with Chief of Naval Operations' Sailing Directions:

- Deliver a Ready and Accessible Force
- Provide Valued Capabilities
- Enable the Service of Our Sailors and Civilians

I'd like to highlight the strategic initiatives that will further the goal of each focus area.

Deliver a Ready and Accessible Force: The first initiative entails exploring commercial Cloud computing options to improve web access. Our goal is to evaluate this capability for its potential to offer greater flexibility for Sailors to securely access the Navy network, enable innovation, improve productivity, and simultaneously lower costs.

Another initiative within this focus area is a review of the Cross Assignment process to determine if there is a more efficient way to assign Navy Reserve Sailors. The intent is to identify possible adjustments in current policies and processes that would allow cross-assigned personnel an enhanced quality of service.

Provide Valued Capabilities: The Future Use of the Navy Reserve initiative focuses on developing a Reserve Component structure and employment strategy that identifies for the Active Component how to best utilize the Navy Reserve as part of the Total Force.

In a separate initiative, we will examine how the Navy Reserve can actively support the Littoral Combat Ship and Ballistic Missile Defense programs. Both of these capabilities are fundamental to the future of naval warfare.

Enable the Service of our Sailors and Civilians: One initiative centers on Reserve Component familiarization. Our intent is to improve key Navy influencers' and individual Sailors' knowledge of the Navy Reserve's structure, capabilities and value so it can be more effectively employed. A second initiative within this focus area is a review of the Direct Commission Officer (DCO) indoctrination program and its effectiveness in preparing Reserve officers. We will conduct an end to end process review to ensure that training is aligned, relevant, and standardized to address current operational requirements.

These focus areas build on our past and current efforts to provide essential naval warfighting capabilities and expertise that are strategically aligned with mission requirements. This year's initiatives will help ensure the readiness, innovation, and agility of our Force.

This is just a snapshot of the FY13 Navy Reserve Strategic Plan. I encourage you to review the entire plan on the Navy Reserve Homeport (www.navyreserve.navy.mil).

Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun Chief of Navy Reserve